

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 01369 131448Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

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INFO USDOC WASHINGTON DC

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

USINT BAGHDAD IRAQ

AMCONGEN DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

AMCONSULATE SHIRAZ IRAN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

UNCLAS MANAMA 1369

ABU DHABI PLEASE PASS DUBAI

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : EWWT, ETRN, XX

SUBJECT : PORT CONGESTION IN PERSIAN GULF

REFS : (A) DHAHRAN 1183 (B) MANAMA 1328

(C) KUWAIT 3994 (D) JIDDA 5413

1. ACCORDING TO A FRONT-PAGE STORY IN THE SEPT. 12 EDITION  
OF THE GULF WEEKLY MIRROR, THE FOLLOWING ARE THE WAITING  
PERIODS FOR SHIPS IN REGIONAL PORTS: (A) BAHRAIN, 50-55 DAYS;  
(B) DUBAI, 34-40 DAYS; (C) ABU DHABI, 22-24 DAYS; (D) DOHA,  
120-130 DAYS; (E) MUTTRAH, 5-7 DAYS; (F) DAMMAM, 78-80 DAYS;  
(G) KUWAIT: CONFERENCE LINE SHIPS, 15-17 DAYS; NON CONFERENCE  
LINE SHIPS, 45-50 DAYS; (H) KHORRAMSHAHR, 60-220 DAYS; (I) BANDAR  
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PAGE 02 MANAMA 01369 131448Z

SHAHPOUR, 40-130 DAYS; (J) BUSHEIR, 40-145 DAYS; (D) BASRA,

60 DAYS.

2. FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE AS FOLLOWS:

"SHIPS QUEUED BY THE SCORE AT GULF PORTS THIS WEEK AS CONGESTION BECAME WORSE THAN EVER. FUELLED BY RAMADAN AND THE CONSTRUCTION BOOM, IMPORTS SOARED BEYOND EXPECTATIONS AND CAPACITY. SOME SHIPS ARE HAVING TO WAIT A STAGGERING 130 DAYS ANCHORED OFF DOHA. IN BAHRAIN THEY ARE HAVING TO WAIT ABOUT 55 DAYS. AND IN DUBAI, WHERE TWO MONTHS AGO THE MAXIMUM WAITING TIME WAS UP TO 10 DAYS, WAITING TIME HAS QUADRUPLD TO 40 DAYS. IT MEANS PRICE RISES FOR CONSUMERS. IT COSTS BETWEEN \$4,000 AND \$7,500 A DAY TO KEEP A SHIP WAITING IN FUEL COSTS WAGES MAINTENANCE, AND CASH LOST IN WAITING FOR OTHER CARGOES. THAT IS PASSED ON TO THE CONSUMER.

BAHRAIN HAS 97 SHIPS WAITING OUTSIDE MINA SULMAN, WHICH HAS FOUR BERTHS AVAILABLE FOR CARGO SHIPS. PORTS OPERATIONS MANAGER JOHN KENDRICK SAID: "CARGO HANDLING IS UP ABOUT 68 PER CENT OVER EIGHT MONTHS THIS YEAR.

"THERE HAS BEEN A COLOSSAL INCREASE IN CARGO FROM THE FAR EAST AND MUCH OF THE CARGO COMING IS IN TRANSIT FOR SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT, BECAUSE BAHRAIN IS A FREE PORT. WE ARE FACING SEVERE CARGO CONGESTION.

"THE BOOM STARTED HERE IN FEBRUARY, WITH HANDLING SHOOTING UP TO 130,000 TONS A MONTH. THERE IS NO SIGN OF A LET UP AS YET. IF WE GET RID OF TWO SHIPS, FOUR MORE REGISTER".

IN DUBAI, PORT MANAGER CAPTAIN ARTHUR JERMAN SAID SHIPS WERE FACING THEIR LONGEST-EVER WAITING TIME. ON SATURDAY 171 SHIPS WERE QUEUING AT THE 15 BERTH PORT.

"BUT TO SAY THERE ARE 40 DAYS WAITING FOR ALL SHIPS IS UNTRUE," HE SAID. "PASSANGER SHIPS, SHIPS CARRYING FROZEN GOODS, LIVESTOCK SHIPS, RULER'S PRIORITY SHIPS AND SOME CAR SHIPS DO NOT HAVE TO WAIT AT ALL.

"IF THIS IS AVERAGED OUT THE AVERAGE WAITING PERIOD IS ONLY ABOUT 30 DAYS."

SHORTER WORKING HOURS DURING RAMADAN AND GENERAL LABOUR SHORTAGES ARE BEING BLAMED FOR THE CONGESTION BY SOME SHIPPING AGENCIES.

AND THROUGHOUT THE GULF SHIPPING AGENCIES AND PORT AUTHORITIES FEAR THE SITUATION MAY BECOME WORSE. IN DUBAI, FOR INSTANCE, PORT RASHID WAS DESIGNED TO HANDLE NO MORE THAT 3.5 MILLION UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03     MANAMA 01369 131448Z

TONS OF CARGO A YEAR YET MORE THAN 5 MILLION TONS A YEAR IS ALREADY BEING OFFLOADED.

IN BAHRAIN, A PREFABRICATED EXTENSION JETTY FOR ANOTHER TWO BERTHS IS EXPECTED SOON FROM SINGAPORE BUT MR. KENDRICK SAID:

"THIS WILL LEAD TO MORE CONGESTION, AS WE WILL HAVE MORE CARGO COMING IN BUT WITH THE SAME CARGO HANDLING FACILITIES. "IT WAS SO BAD RECENTLY THAT WE SPEND BD. 97,000 AIR-FREIGHTING TEN TRACTORS FROM EUROPE.

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## Message Attributes

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